IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application.

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 5, wherein one of the HCV polypeptides is from a different strain of HCV than the other HCV polypeptides.

4. (previously presented): The composition of claim 3 wherein each of the HCV polypeptides is from a different strain of HCV.

5. (currently amended): A̶ An immunogenic composition that activates HCV-specific T cells, said composition comprising:

(a) a fusion protein that comprises HCV polypeptides, wherein the HCV polypeptides consist of an NS3, an NS4, an NS5a, an NS5b and a core polypeptide of HCV; and̶

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient; and

(c) an adjuvant.

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended): A̶ An immunogenic composition that activates HCV-specific T cells, said composition comprising HCV polypeptides, wherein the HCV polypeptides consist of:

(a) an isolated and purified NS3 polypeptide of a hepatitis C virus (HCV);

(b) an isolated and purified NS4 polypeptide of a HCV;

(c) an isolated and purified NS5a polypeptide of a HCV;

(d) an isolated and purified NS5b polypeptide of a HCV;

(e) an isolated and purified core polypeptide of a HCV;

(f) a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient; and

(g) an adjuvant.

9-22. (canceled)

23. (withdrawn): A method of activating T cells which recognize an epitope of an HCV polypeptide, comprising the step of:

contacting T cells with the composition of claim 5, whereby a population of activated T cells recognizes an epitope of the NS3, NS4, NS5a, or NS5b polypeptides.

24. (withdrawn): The method of claim 23 wherein the T cells are obtained from a mammal selected from the group consisting of a mouse, a baboon, a chimpanzee, and a human.

25. (withdrawn): The method of claim 24 wherein the mammal is infected with an HCV.

26. (withdrawn): The method of claim 24 wherein the mammal is not infected with an HCV.

27. (withdrawn): The method of claim 23 wherein the population of T cells comprises $CD4^+$ T cells.

28. (withdrawn): The method of claim 23 wherein the population of T cells comprises $CD8^+$ T cells.

29. (withdrawn): The method of claim 28 wherein the $CD8^+$ T cells express interferon-γ.

30. (withdrawn): The method of claim 28 wherein the CD8$^+$ T cells specifically recognize an epitope of an NS5a polypeptide.

31. (withdrawn): The method of claim 30 wherein the epitope is selected from the group consisting of the epitopes shown in SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

32. (withdrawn): The method of claim 23 wherein the T cells comprise CD8$^+$ and CD4$^+$ T cells.

33. (withdrawn): The method of claim 23 wherein the step of contacting further comprises contacting the T cells with an adjuvant.

34-36. (canceled)

37. (withdrawn): The method of claim 23 wherein the T cells are in a mammal.

38. (withdrawn): The method of claim 37 wherein the mammal is selected from the group consisting of a mouse, a baboon, a chimpanzee, and a human.

39. (withdrawn): The method of claim 37 wherein the mammal is infected with an HCV.

40. (withdrawn): The method of claim 37 wherein the mammal is not infected with an HCV.

41. (canceled)

42. (withdrawn): A method of activating T cells which recognize an epitope of an HCV polypeptide, comprising the step of:

contacting T cells with a composition according to claim 8, whereby a population of activated T cells recognizes an epitope of the NS3, NS4, NS5a, or NS5b polypeptides.

43-44. (canceled)

45. (previously presented): The composition of claim 8, wherein one of the HCV polypeptides is from a different strain of HCV than the other HCV polypeptides.

46. (previously presented): The composition of claim 8, wherein each of the HCV polypeptides is from a different strain of HCV.